

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application, including independent claims 1, 11, 13 and 14. Claims 15-20 previously were withdrawn pursuant to a restriction requirement.

As background, Applicant's invention addresses a problem which arises from the storage of a large number of tracks on a recordable compact disk. With the use of current compression techniques, a user can record a large number of tracks (e.g., one hundred or more) on a CD-R. However, conventional CD-R playback devices generally play back tracks in order from the track recorded first. Therefore, the user must inconveniently operate the up/down key many times to listen to the latest tracks. Moreover, it is difficult for the user to remember the track number of all of the hundred or more tracks. (See application at p. 1, lines 10-30.)

Applicant's invention solves this problem by managing the tracks on such a recordable medium in a user-friendly manner. In conventional systems for recording on a recordable medium such as a CD-R, a session is formed every time writing is performed. However, a user is not aware of the session organization in known systems. In Applicant's invention, sessions are used effectively. Particularly, each session is regarded as a virtual disk, and tracks recorded on the recordable medium are managed within each session. When an arbitrary track is selected, the name of the session (as a virtual disk), the track number within the session, and the name of the track are displayed. Thus, a user can easily find a desired track. (See application at p. 2, lines 5-28.)

Claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious, with Keller again being the primary reference. The Examiner also has cited a number of references to show that it was known to record data in sessions, where each session includes one or more track files and is formed when writing is performed. However, Applicant is not disputing this fact; the present application describes this.

Applicant's detailed comments regarding Keller are set forth in Applicant's previous response, but Applicant will summarize some pertinent points here. Keller

describes a compact disc recording device that stores a music library of sound tracks and can also function as a player to play back a selected sound track (e.g., col. 4, lines 40-47; col. 12, lines 37-55; col. 24, lines 55-59). A session in Keller is typically a group of sound tracks which have been previously assigned to that particular session (col. 15, line 68 to col. 16, line 2). Thus, a session can be formed by adding (or deleting) sound tracks at the time and option of the user. Fig. 8 is an example of the display 46 when the button 61 is pushed to display a list of sound tracks in a session (col. 16, lines 3-15). A user pressing the button 59 in this state causes a highlighted sound track in the session to be deleted from that session (col. 16, lines 51-53). On the other hand, a sound track that appears in a master sound track list on the recording device can be selected by the user and added to a particular session. Fig. 9 shows a master list 234 of sound tracks and a selection menu 236 which provides the user with navigation and editing functions (col. 16, line 60 to col. 17, line 2). A user can select a desired sound track from the master list and instruct the device to add the selected sound track to a particular session that has already been selected (col. 17, lines 10-18). Alternatively, a sound track may be recorded directly from an external source into a previously selected session (col. 18, line 66 to col. 19, line 37).

Applicant's independent claims have been amended to clarify the description of Applicant's invention. Independent claims 1, 11, 13 and 14 have been amended to specify that a session is automatically formed each time writing is performed. This distinguishes Keller, which has user-defined sessions. Claims 1, 13 and 14 have also been amended to describe that each such session is regarded as a virtual disk; each track file in a session is assigned a track number; and the name of the virtual disk, the track number, and the name of an arbitrary track can be displayed. This also is not disclosed in Keller or any of the other cited references. Claim 11 is amended to further explain that the audio device comprises a CD changer, and further specifies that the normal functions of the next-disk key (to retrieve the next disk) and the previous-disk key (to retrieve the previous disk) are used to select a session as a virtual disk on the CD-R. This is not described or suggested in any cited reference.

In summary, Applicant submits that the claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited art. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks.

Respectfully submitted,


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